

REMARKS

Claims 1 to 3, 5 to 13, 15 to 18 and 23 to 26 continue to be in the case.

The Office Action refers to Claim Objections.

3. Claims 1, 7, 9, 11, 23 stand objected to because of the following informalities: the word "possibility" is objected to since a more positive recitation should be used. Appropriate correction is required.

Applicants are now amending claims 1, 7, 9, 11, and 23 for elimination of the objectionable language.

The Office Action refers to Claim Rejections - 35 USC§ 102.

4. Claims 1-3, 8-9, 12, 13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Arita et al (5,504,502).

Applicants respectfully traverse

As to claims 1, 2, Fig. 1 of Arita discloses a computer input pointing device comprising a casing (13, 19), an upper movable steering element (10), a steering element's movement detector (14, 14', 18), the steering element (10) is connected to the casing by a connection the spherical surface (Fig. 3 A) defined by the movement of the steering element in relation to the casing is situated above the steering element as claimed.

Claim 1 of the instant application as amended requires:

"wherein the steering element (3) is connected to the casing (2) by a connection allowing two dimensional spherical movement, while the center of the spherical surface (4) defined by the movement of the steering element (3) in relation to the casing (2) is situated above the steering element (3).".

In contrast to claim 1, the reference Arita et al. does not define a spherical center of the slider 10. Such spherical center of the slider 10 would be disposed of on the same side of the slider (10) as is the housing 13.

Claim 1 requires that the center of the spherical surface (4) is on an opposite side of the steering element (3) as is the casing (2). Thus the casing (2) is disposed on the convex side of the steering element (3). According to the reference Arita et al., the housing (13) is disposed on the concave side of the slider (10).

As to claim 3, Fig. 2 of Arita shows the connection of the steering element to the casing is a surface of spherical shape (13).

The present amendment further specifies claim 3 to more clearly distinguish over the reference Arita et al

Reconsideration of all outstanding rejections is respectfully requested.

All claims as presently submitted are deemed to be in form for allowance and an early notice of allowance is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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